

The President's Daily Brief

18 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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An official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington has given his impressions of Moscow's thoughts on SALT.
(Page 2)

Prime Minister Gandhi has defeated a no-confidence motion in Parliament with the help of diverse supporters. (Page 3)

Recent satellite photography shows that the military build-up on both sides of the Sino-Soviet border is continuing. (Page 4)

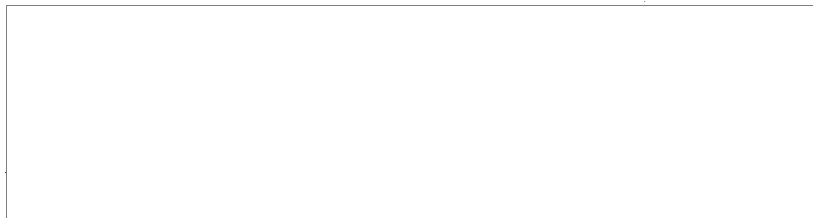
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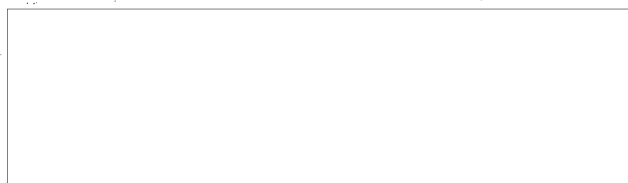
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VIETNAM



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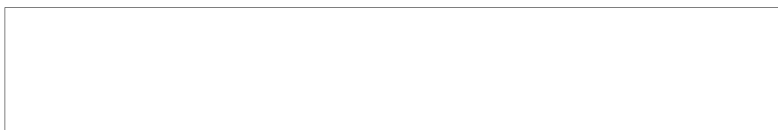


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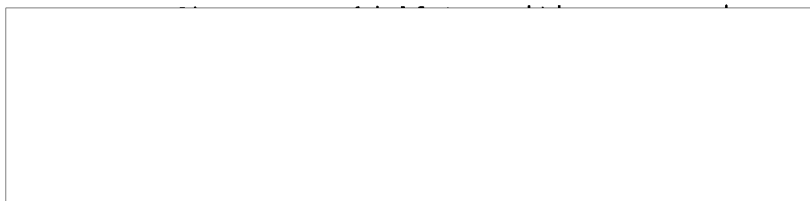


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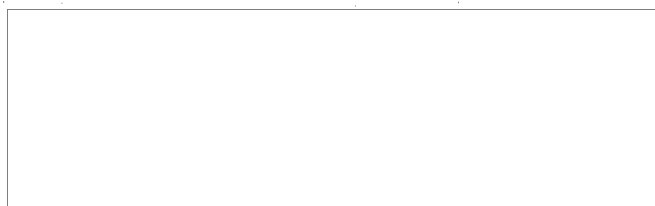
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SOVIET UNION

The first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Anatoly Lebedev, told a Department of State official on 14 November that in his opinion the USSR would be willing to consider a moratorium on MIRV and ABM deployment. Lebedev also repeated Moscow's desire to include offensive and defensive strategic arms in the limitation talks. He added that the USSR would be willing to move the substantive talks to Vienna if the US so desires.

Lebedev was giving his impressions of "indications" from Moscow and was not relaying official instructions. In the past, casual remarks on priority topics from members of the Soviet diplomatic corps have not been a reliable gauge to the Kremlin's thinking.

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INDIA

Prime Minister Gandhi yesterday easily defeated a no-confidence motion in Parliament introduced by a right-wing opposition party. The opposition was joined by the 65 break-away Congress Party members, led by ex-deputy prime minister Morarji Desai. Support for Mrs. Gandhi from independents and regional, socialist, and Communist parties brought the vote to 306, well over the 262 needed to survive the challenge.

Although her victory was not dependent on the 43 Communists in Parliament, there is no assurance that she will not need them in the future as she tries to accommodate the often conflicting interests of her new allies.

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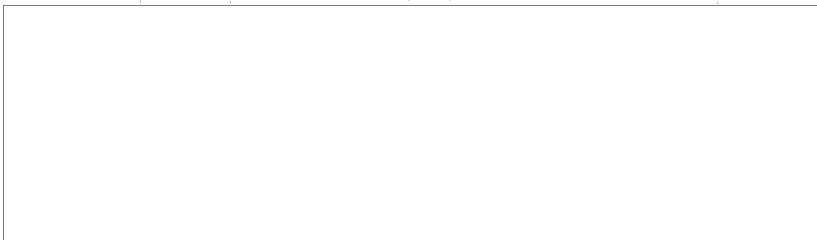
USSR-CHINA

Satellite photography of early November shows that the military build-up along the Sino-Soviet border is continuing. Additional artillery and engineering equipment and fighter aircraft were observed on the Soviet side, while in China increased numbers of tanks were identified.

About half of the Soviets' 27 to 30 ground force divisions along the Sino-Soviet border are now combat ready. These forces are supported by two tactical air armies and nuclear-capable missiles.

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EGYPT



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NOTES

Pakistan-Jordan:

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